

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A message processing apparatus for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end to a receiving end, the e-mail messages having at least a header, a ~~title~~subject line, and a body, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving an e-mail message sent from the sending end;

a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler programs, the keywords representing a characteristic of the e-mail messages, such as worthiness or urgency;

key information extraction means for examining the ~~title~~subject line or body of the e-mail message received by said reception means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received e-mail message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table;

program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said keyword lookup table to load one of the handler programs that is associated with the keyword found in the received e-mail message; and

execution means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the handler program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.

2. (Previously presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the handler program provides at least one primitive process; and

said execution means selectively executes some of the primitive processes, depending on events that may occur subsequently to the reception of the e-mail message.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the key information accompanies a predetermined argument; and

said execution means executes the handler program, referring to the argument.

5. (Original) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the handler programs are stored in a distributing station; and

the message processing apparatus further comprises downloading means for downloading the handler programs from the distribution station.

6. (Previously presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

said downloading means downloads the keyword lookup table from the distributing station, together with the handler programs.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end, the e-mail messages having at least a header, a ~~title~~subject line, and a body, the computer program being designed to run on a computer in order to cause the computer to function as:

reception means for receiving an e-mail message sent from the sending end;

a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler programs, the keywords representing worthiness or urgency of the e-mail messages;

key information extraction means for examining the ~~title~~subject line or body of the e-mail message received by said reception means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received e-mail message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table;

program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said keyword lookup table and loading one of the handler programs that is associated with the keyword found in the received e-mail message; and

execution means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the handler program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.